

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 BEIRUT 03608 01 OF 02 241336Z

42

ACTION NEA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 NEAE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00

INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 INRE-00 PM-03

NSC-05 SS-15 /045 W

----- 073206

O R 241246Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO USINFO WASHDC IMMEDIATE

SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3513

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

UNCLAS SECTION 1 OF 2 BEIRUT 3608

USIA FOR IOP/M, IBS, IPS, INA

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SOPN, PFOR, XF, LE

SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION -- SUSPENSION OF SECRETARY'S MISSION

1. SUMMARY. SECRETARY'S STATEMENT THAT "THIS IS A SAD DAY FOR AMERICA AND FOR ISRAEL" AND RISE OF TENSION IN AREA FOLLOWING SUSPENSION OF HIS MISSION BANNERED IN ALL MARCH 24 BEIRUT PAPERS, WHICH ALSO DEVOTE EXTENSIVE COMMENT TO REASONS FOR MISSIONS'S FAILURE AND TO OUTLOOK FOR FUTURE. LEADING INDEPENDENT "AN-NAHAR" AND PRO-IRAQI "BEIRUT" ATTRIBUTE FAILURE OF MISSION TO "UNREASONABLE DEMANDS" PLACED ON PRESIDENT SADAT, WHO STEADFASTLY RESISTED THEM. PRO-SAUDI "AL-HAYAT" BLAMES ISRAEL FOR THESE "UNREASONABLE DEMANDS", BUT LEADING LEFTIST PRO-PLO "AL-MUHARRIR", PRO-SYRIAN "ASH-SHARQZN PRO-LIBYAN "AS-SAFIR", AND INDEPENDENT "AL-BAYRAQ" BLAME U.S. UNWILLINGNESS TO PUT ENOUGH PRESSURE ON ISRAEL. LOOKING TOWARDS FUTURE, MOST PAPERS SEE GENEVA OR WAR AS ONLY ALTERNATIVES AND CALL FOR REINFORCEMENT OF ARAB SOLIDARITY. SOME PAPERS ALSO

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PAGE 02 BEIRUT 03608 01 OF 02 241336Z

URGE RESTORATION OF GOOD RELATIONS WITH SOVIET UNION. END SUMMARY.

2. LEADING INDEPENDENT "AN-NAHAR" BANNERS: "KISSINGER LEAVES AREA AND FORD CONSIDERES NEGOTIATIONS 'SUSPENDED'. 'SAD DAY FOR AMERICA AND FOR ISRAEL'. INDEPENDENT FRENCH-LANGUAGE "L'ORIENT-LE JOUR" BANNERS: "AFTER FAILURE OF KISSINGER MISSION, RENEWAL OF TENSION IN NEAR EAST. MILITARY PREPARATIONS IN ISRAEL - ALERT IN PALESTINIAN CAMPS IN LEBANON." LEADING PRO-EGYPTIAN "AL-ANWAR" BANNERS: "FORCES OF EGYPT AND SYRIA ON ALERT. CAIRO DOES NOT EXCLUDE OUTBREAK OF WAR." LEADING LEFTIST PRO-PLO "AL-MUHARRIR" BANNERS: "ORDOR OF WAR RISES IN REGION. PALESTINIAN EXPECTATIONS OF ISRAELI ATTACK ON SYRIA AND SOUTH LEBANON." PRO-SAUDI "AL-HAYAT" BANNERS: "GENEVA -- OR WAR." PRO-SYRIAN "ASH-SHARQ" BANNERS: "STRONG TENSION IN AREA."

3. GHASSAN TUENI, PUBLISHER OF LEADING INDEPENDENT "AN-NAHAR", WRITES IN FRONT-PAGE EDITORIAL: "ONCE MORE, SADAT WINS ROUND, EVEN IF HE HAS LOST PEACE ON WHICH HE WAS BETTING' EGYPTIAN ACTIONS VIS A VIS AMERICAN MOVES AND ISRAELI OFFERS HAVE PROVEN THAT SADAT'S EGYPT WAS NOT ASKING FOR 'PEACE AT ANY PRICE', BUT FOR 'ARAB PEACE'.... SADAT WON ROUND BECAUSE HE ATTEMPTED PEACE WHILE PREPARING FOR WAR.... VICTORY MAY NOT BE CERTAIN, BUT IT IS CLOSER THANKS TO RETURN OF SOVIET ARMS TO EGYPT... NOT TO MENTION FACTOR WHICH MAY BECOME SUPREME -- GROWING PALESTINIAN PREPAREDNESS INSIDE AND OUTSIDE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES.... WILL NEXT ROUND BE WAR? SOME WAR, CERTAINLY, UNLESS KISSINGER IS ABLE TO ACHIEVE ONE LAST MIRACLE -- THIS TIME OF NECESSITY WITH GROMYKO -- AND GET GENEVA CONFERENCE HELD ONE WAY OR ANOTHER BEFORE END OF APRIL, E.E. BEFORE EGYPTIAN 'CONTRACT' WITH UNEF EXPIRES."

4. ISA GHURAYYIB, FOREIGN EDITOR OF INDEPENDENT FRENCH-LANGUAGE "L'ORIENT-LE JOUR", WRITES IN FRONT-PAGE EDITORIAL; "IT IS DIFFICULT FOR ARABS TO MAKE WAR WITHOUT EGYPT, BUT IT IS ABSOLUTELY IMPOSSIBLE FOR THEM TO MAKE PEACE WITHOUT PALESTINIANS NOW THAT IT HAS LOST ITS AMERICAN BET, EGYPT FINDS ITSELF OBLIGED TO REVISE ALL ITS CALCULATIONS... INTEGRATE ITSELF INTO PALESTINIAN-SYRIAN AXIS... AND ABOVE ALL TRY AND GET BACK INTO GOOD GRACES OF USSR.... DR. KISSINGER HIMSELF ADMITTED YESTERDAY THAT NO FORUM REMAINS BUT PEACE CONFERENCE.... ALL OPTIONS ARE OPEN. NOTORIOUS BOMB WE WERE ATTEMPTING TO DEFUSE IS STILL THERE, UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 03 BEIRUT 03608 01 OF 02 241336Z

AND ITS FUSE WILL BURN DOWN ... UNLESS NEW MIRACLE -- THIS ONE

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PAGE 01 BEIRUT 03608 02 OF 02 241420Z

42

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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 NEAE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00

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NSC-05 SS-15 /045 W

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O R 241246Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO USINFO WASHDC IMMEDIATE

SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3514

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

UNCLAS SECTION 2 OF 2 BEIRUT 3608

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SOVIET-AMERICAN -- IS ACHIEVED TO PERMIT STUDY OF PALESTINIAN
DOSSIER THAT U.S. DIPLOMACY HAS BEEN OBSTINATELY IGNORING,
THUS WASTING MOMENTUM FOR PEACE RESULTING FROM OCTOBER WAR."

5. SULAYMAN AL-FIRIZLI, CHIEF EDITOR OF PRO-IRAQI "BEIRUT",
WRITES IN FRONT-PAGE EDITORIAL: "KISSINGER HAS DISCOVERED THAT
NO ARAB RULER CAN DEAL WITH ISSUE ALONE.... HE HAS ALSO DISCOVERED
THAT ISRAEL CAN NEVER OBTAIN WHAT IT WANTS NO MATTER WHAT AMERICAN
SUPPORT IT RECEIVES.... IT IS SAID THAT ALTERNATIVE TO COLLAPSE
OF THIS SMALL STAGE IS CONVENING OF BIG STAGE AT GENEVA. BUT
OBSTACLES WHICH FOILED KISSINGER'S MISSION ARE SAME AS THOSE
WHICH WOULD EMERGE AT GENEVA CONFERENCE. WHAT IS WISDOM OF
CLINGING TO GENEVA CONFERENCE IF ITS FATE IS FAILURE?"

6. RIYAD ABU MILHIM, EDITORIAL DIRECTOR OF LEADING LEFTIST
PRO-PLO "AL-MUHARRIR", WRITES: "REASONS WHICH LED TO FAILURE
OF KISSINGER'S MISSION ARE MANY AND COMPLEX. HE WANTED TO ACHIEVE
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PAGE 02 BEIRUT 03608 02 OF 02 241420Z

PARTIAL AGREEMENT ON BASIS OF CONDITIONS SUITABLE ONLY IN

COMPREHENSIVE SETTLEMENT, I.E. EGYPT AND OTHER ARAB STATES WERE TO OFFER ALL THEIR CONCESSIONS IN EXCHANGE FOR PARTIAL ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL, WHILE ISRAEL WAS TO OBTAIN SOMETHING BASIC--GETTING ARABS TO END STATE OF BELLIGERENCY.... HE ALSO IGNORED THE BASIC ELEMENT OF PROBLEM --DESTINY OF PALESTINIAN PEOPLE -- AND REFUSED TO RECOGNIZED PLO.... ARAB STATES MUST ... LAUNCH WAR OF ATTRITION AGAINST ISRAEL... TO PREVENT MIDEAST CRISIS FROM RETURNING TO DEEP FREEZE AGAIN. THEY MUST REESTABLISH GOOD RELATIONS WITH SOVIET UNION.... THEY MUST REINFORCE ARAB SOLIDARITY.... RICH ARAB STATES MUST PLEDGE TO PROVIDE ALL REQUIREMENTS OF BATTLE.... KISSINGER HAS FAILED, BUT WILL THE WILL OF THE ARABS BE VICTORIOUS?"

7. PRO-SYRIAN "ASH-SHARQZ WRITES: "FAILURE OF DR. KISSINGER'S MISSION WAS NOT IN ITSELF ELEMENT OF SENSATION IN MIDEAST CRISIS, FOR IT WAS EXPECTED FROM BEGINNING. AMERICA'S POLICY OF EXTREME SUPPORT FOR ISRAEL AND OF ANTAGONISM TO ARAB CAUSE WILL NEVER SUCCEED, BECAUSE ZIONIST ENTITY WILL ACCEPT NOTHING SHORT OF ACHIEVEMENT OF ITS AGGRESSIVE EXPANSIONIST AMBITIONS... AND AMERICAN ZIONIST, KISSINGER, WILL NEVER PUT PRESSURE ON LEADERS OF ZIONIST ENTITY.... IMPORTANT THING NOW IS FOR ARAB SOLIDARITY TO BE TRANSLATED INTO REALITY."

8. MUHAMMAD MASHMUSHI, COLUMNIST IN PRO-LIBYAN "AS-SAFIR", WRITES: "NOT ONLY HAS KISSINGER'S DIPLOMACY FAILED, BUT SO HAS AMERICAN POLICY IN GENERAL. IF ANYONE SHOULD PAY PRICE OF KISSINGER'S FAILURE IN MIDEAST, IT IS U.S. POLICY AND EVEN AMERICA ITSELF.... AMERICA IS ONE RESPONSIBLE FOR FAILURE OF KISSINGER'S DIPLOMACY AND OF ITS POLICY, NOT ISRAEL. IT ARMED ISRAEL TO TEETH ... AND DEPRIVED EGYPT OF ALL ITS CARDS WITH PROMISES, PLEDGES, AND CREATION OF FALSE HOPES."

9. SIDDIQ BUTRUS, COLUMIST IN INDEPENDENT "AL-BAYRAQ", WRITES: "WHY DID KISSINGER'S MISSION REACH DEAD END? FOR CLEAR AND SIMPLE REASON THAT HE DID NOT WISH TO -- OR COULD NOT -- SAY TO ISRAELIS: 'WE ARE PREPARED TO DEFEND YOU, BUT NOT YOUR CONQUESTS.' HOW COULD HE SAY THIS AFTER ISRAEL'S RECONVERSION INTO ARSENAL OF AMERICAN ARMS? PEACEFUL ALTERNATIVE TO KISSINGER'S MISSION NOW IS FIRST TO GO TO GENEVA... AND THEN TO FIFTH WAR, WHICH IS INEVITABLE. WHEN KISSINGER DESCRIBED DAY ON WHICH HIS UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 BEIRUT 03608 02 OF 02 241420Z

MISSION'S FAILURE WAS ANNOUNCED AS SAD ONE FOR U.S. AND ISRAEL, HE WAS RIGHT.... U.S. GOVERNMENT ALONE IS RESPONSIBLE FOR SINKING AMERICAN SHIP OF STATE IN MEDITERRANEAN, FOR IT HAS INSISTED ON USING IT AS AN AIRCRAFT CARRIER FOR ISRAELI INVASIONS".

10. CONSERVATIVE PRO-SAUDI "AL-HAYAT" WRITES IN FRONT-PAGE EDITORIAL: "FAILURE OF DR. KISSINGER'S MISSION, FOR WHICH ISRAEL IS RESPONSIBLE, SHOULD PROMPT ARAB LEADERS TO REVISE THEIR

ATTITUDES AND RETURN TO ARMS OF ARAB SOLIDARITY TO FACE COMING
PHASE, WHICH IS UNDOUBTEDLY MOST DELICATE PHASE THROUGH WHICH
ARAB CAUSE HAS PASSED IN QUARTER OF A CENTURY.... NOW THAT CLOUDS
HAVE LIFTED AND ROAD HAS BECOME CLEAR, MIDEAST HAS ONLY TWO
ALTERNATIVES -- RESUMPTION OF GENEVA CONFERENCE AS SOON AS
POSSIBLE OR OUTBREAK OF WAR."
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, ARBITRATION, NEGOTIATIONS, PEACE PLANS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 24 MAR 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975BEIRUT03608
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750102-0309
From: BEIRUT
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750323/aaaaaard.tel
Line Count: 230
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 5
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: hartledg
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 18 JUN 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <18 JUN 2003 by SilvaL0>; APPROVED <26 FEB 2004 by hartledg>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MEDIA REACTION -- SUSPENSION OF SECRETARY'S MISSION
TAGS: SOPN, PFOR, XF, LE
To: USIA STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006